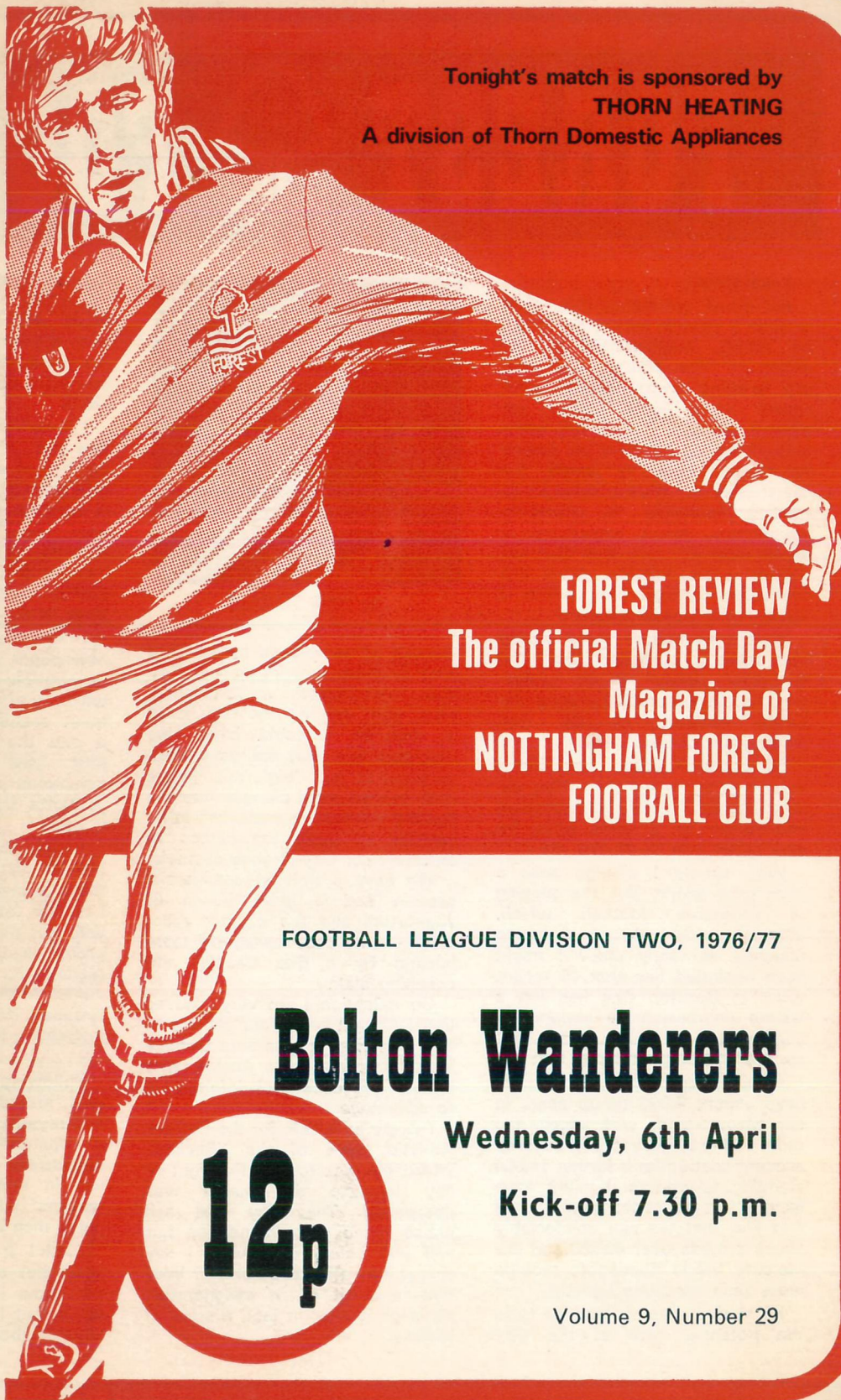


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Magazine of
NOTTINGHAM FOREST
FOOTBALL CLUB

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO, 1976/77

Bolton Wanderers

Wednesday, 6th April

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

12p

Volume 9, Number 29

FOREST FOCUS

I am sorry!

For me to commence this article in such a manner would, no doubt, be totally unacceptable to the editor of "The Times", and even my evening class English tutor would most likely advise me against committing such folly when submitting my examination papers for Forest Focus "O" levels. But the trouble is I always seem to be making apologies to someone, somewhere, about something, in which case you may well then ask "What is so different about this particular apology that makes it worthy of a special mention".

Well it all started some weeks ago when a journalist from "The Guardian" asked me to explain why Forest appeared to enjoy the better support of the two Nottingham clubs.

Of course I knew why, but I wasn't going to tell him. After all, why should I hand out classified information on a plate when he was being paid to do the job?

Why should I divulge such a well kept secret like the playing of attractive football which, although not always winning matches, is rarely dull? I might have reminded him that 15 recent years in Division One had left a lasting impression on supporters, particularly on those who first started watching us during that era.

I could have pointed out that we have almost 4,000 tip-up seats in our Main Stand, with ample leg room and easy access, and covered accommodation for a further 14,000 standing spectators. I might have let the "cat out of the bag" if I had told him that we can comfortably house crowds over 40,000 and our mercury halide floodlights provide more than adequate lighting.

He should have realised we have the potential here at the City



by KEN SMALES

Ground, as we proved by finishing First Division runners-up and F.A. Cup semi-finalists a few years back, and winning the final itself in 1958/59. I could have also reminded him that we have been prepared to buy "big", not always well, but we have plunged into the transfer market on occasions in an attempt to bring big names to entertain our City Ground clientele.

We have a thriving commercial section and a great bunch of supporters and the biggest asset of all — the best managerial team backed by a fine training and coaching staff.

On reflection I am very pleased that I did not reveal our secrets to him otherwise it was sure to have leaked out and who knows who would have used such information to advantage.

I wrote an article for the Oldham Athletic issue of the "Review" which has yet to see the light of day because the match was postponed. They say that self praise is no recommendation but will you believe me when I say that it was a fantastic story? Well that is a bit of an exaggeration although it was, in fact, a story of fantasy.

Mind you, it was not the stuff of which "magic badges" are made. You know the kind, they only require dusting to bring back memories of prehistoric feats, but just a bit of "frivolocity" to coin a word.

I know that you are itching to find out why I am tendering an apology at all, and it may come as a shock to you when I say that it is because I am going to break a New Year resolution (1973 I think it was) when I vowed never to mention Notts County — there I've said it — and I'm glad it's over and done with, it didn't hurt one bit!

Unlike the "Magpie" programme, newspaper, magazine (or whatever description turns you on), and which you may care to read in quiet seclusion after having torn it into the shape that suits you best, **you will find no snide comments in this editorial directed at Notts County** — oh, I've said it again!

I have always taken the line of thought that if you ignore something it might go away, and if it has any feeling at all it probably will, but this "Magpie" apprentice proof reader's nightmare keeps rearing its little head spitting venom in the direction of the City Ground. It is almost as though interesting feature articles about its own club have gone out of fashion.

Following my talk with the aforesaid "Guardian" correspondent we had toyed with the idea of running a competition in which our supporters were to be asked to list, in order of importance, the reasons why we attract bigger gates than Notts County.

Ouch! It is beginning to hurt again but then three mentions of the name in one article is a bit much, but I digress. The more we thought about it, the more we were

sold on the idea, because we had visions of persuading the editor of "Magpie" to head the panel of judges appointed to select the winning entry!

This was an inspired choice because he is undoubtedly the greatest living authority on this complex subject. For instance, he has been able to reveal, after lengthy, painstaking, and costly research, that the television companies, national and local newspapers, and radio stations are largely aware of the existence of only one league club in this city.

Another major breakthrough attributed to him, and which has won him general acclaim amongst his contemporaries, is that the majority of football followers in Nottingham are hooligans who can only appreciate a footballer if he is wearing a red shirt. That is the footballer wearing the shirt not the hooligan. To be fair, he does acknowledge that these findings are, as yet, unconfirmed.

His readers are kept up to date each match with the progress of his researches and it will come as no surprise when he eventually gains, as he must surely do, an open university degree in "Revealing and Evaluating Discrepancies in Support". Imagine his chagrin when he at last realises his ambition and has to write the letters R.E.D.S. after his name. However I don't think that his work will qualify for a Nobel prize.

We have heard that he is currently negotiating with the producers of the "Magpie" to reverse the usual procedure by having the serial reproduced in book form provided all the spelling mistakes, errors and omissions, duplications, outdated pronouncements, incorrect dates, and wrongly-captioned photographs can be eliminated.

I can only hope that we are not asked to review a copy, because after occasionally reading an issue of "Magpie", it would appear that no-one usually bothers to check it for errors before it is actually printed.

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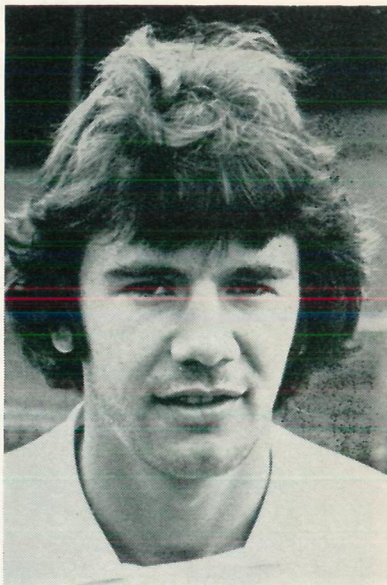
Welcome to Bolton

Bolton Wanderers eventually failed to reach the First Division last season by an exasperating one point and one place. They ended their fixture list with 52 points from 42 games, whilst the promoted pair of Bristol City and Albion both captured 53.

Yet, following a poor (albeit brief) start to the 1975/76 season, Wanderers had looked certain to become one of the three successful clubs in this division. They enjoyed a superb run of 39 points from 26 games (during which time they suffered only three defeats) and this hoisted them to top spot in the division by February, 1976.

By this stage Ian Greaves' men had been involved in titanic F.A. Cup struggles with Newcastle United (which necessitated three games) and it coincided with a drastic decline in their league results. Only one victory was notched in their ensuing nine matches, and the "Trotters" gradually faded out of the promotion picture as Albion slowly, but surely, overtook them. Even three emphatic victories in Bolton's final four games were unable to redeem the situation, and they came a cropper at the final hurdle.

They have, of course, again occupied a place amongst the top three clubs virtually all this season,



PAUL JONES

but there is once more a slight suspicion that they may be faltering. They have now slipped to fifth position, an occurrence that can possibly be explained by three reasons.

They have had a couple of games postponed recently enabling their rivals to make headway on them; we, for example, have now

completed two matches more than the Lancashire club. Additionally they are experiencing a somewhat lean spell having gained a mere seven points from the previous 16 possible prior to last Saturday's 3-0 win over Oldham Athletic. This period is epitomised by their shock 3-4 home defeat by lowly Carlisle United.

A third reason, and it may just be coincidental, is their having been deprived of the services of centre-forward Steve Taylor during this below-par run. He is proving to be a most reliable marksman this campaign, his first in the Football League, and found the target on Saturday in his first-team comeback.

Despite an overall impressive away record, Wanderers visit the City Ground tonight after having played six successive league and cup games on opponents territory without a win. Their last away triumph was at Fulham's Craven Cottage enclosure when they forced a 2-0 victory at the beginning of this year.

We, in turn, are very much overdue for a victory over our visitors. Following their promotion as Third Division champions in 1972/73 (along with Notts County) we have met each other in seven Second Division confrontations—and we've claimed both points only once! Our solitary success was as long ago as Christmas, 1973 when Ian Bowyer scored twice in our 3-2 win.

In the remaining six encounters Bolton have defeated us four times, whilst Peter Withe's effort at Burnden Park three months ago is our only goal on their ground in four attempts. If Ian Greaves' side are victorious tonight it will conclude a hat-trick of City Ground triumphs for them.—M.H.

Travel with the team to Chelsea

SATURDAY, 16th APRIL, 1977

Depart Nottingham Midland 10.40 a.m.

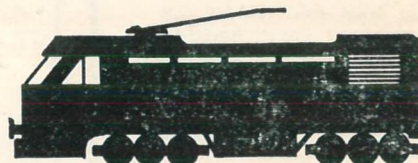
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PERSONAL POINTS

Bolton Wanderers

JIM McDONAGH (Goalkeeper). When this season opened few people (excepting the inhabitants of Rotherham) had heard of McDonagh. But Bolton signed him on a month's loan from the Millmoor club, and quickly paid a fee of some £10,000 for him. In next to no time he had replaced Barry Siddall in our visitors line-up — following his predecessor's departure to Sunderland for a hefty fee — and has quickly created a fine impression.

JOHN RITSON (Full-back). The club skipper, Ritson was born in Liverpool and joined our opponents direct from schoolboy soccer. A strong and attacking player, he received his senior debut ten years ago and has since increased his league outings to almost 300.

TONY DUNNE (Full-back). His only other league club, of course, is Manchester United with whom he eventually completed 415 league games before joining Wanderers on a bargain free transfer more than three years ago. Dunne, who is an Eire international on 32 occasions, is one of the outstanding full-backs of the past decade.

PAUL JONES (Centre-half). He was recently selected as this sphere's outstanding "No. 5" by the P.F.A., and then topped that honour by being called up, by Don Revie, to the full England squad for the game v. Luxembourg. Jones, who has been at Burnden Park throughout his professional career, is a very useful attacking player—confirmation of which is his 28 goals in some 240 league games.

SAM ALLARDYCE (Defender). He is another very efficient defender, and forms a formidable barrier along with Paul Jones. Born in Birmingham, Allardyce really established himself in Wanderers' "No. 6" shirt last campaign when he was absent from only two Second Division outings and was chosen as Bolton's "Player of the Year".

PETER NICHOLSON (Defender). After very brief spells with both Carlisle United and Blackpool, Nicholson joined the Burnden Park staff over five years ago. A tall and versatile performer, he's now completed more than

league outings before being transferred to Carlisle United. Train caught the attention of several clubs whilst at Brunton Park and it resulted in him joining Sunderland for an expensive fee a year ago. New manager Jimmy Adamson obviously considered him as being superfluous to his Roker Park needs, and Train joined Bolton recently.

NEIL WHATMORE (Striker). Despite Bolton's fans apparently disliking him early in his career, Whatmore is proving to be a very reliable young marksman indeed. His aggregate with the "Trotters" now stands at 44 goals in 111 appearances including 11 in his previous eight home matches.

GARRY JONES (Striker). He comes from Manchester and has also been with Bolton since leaving school. Despite being regarded as a very talented young striker, Jones lost his place for much of this campaign due to Taylor's emergence. He has, nevertheless, claimed 40 goals for our visitors in less than 200 league games.

STEVE TAYLOR (Centre-forward). A strong and aggressive young player who only won selection in the team early this season as a result of other players' injuries. He quickly proved to be a real discovery, and hammered 13 Second Division goals in a mere 22 outings before suffering cartilage injuries almost three months ago.

WILLIE MORGAN (Winger). One of the many graduates of Burnley's productive youth scheme, he cost Manchester United over £100,000 when departing from Turf Moor some eight years ago. Morgan netted 23 goals for the "Red Devils" in 236 appearances before rejoining Burnley in the 1975 close season. A Scottish international on 21 occasions, he moved to Burnden Park prior to the end of last campaign.

PETER THOMPSON (Winger). One of the game's outstanding wingers of recent years, Thompson has now completed some 550 league games in which he's scored 64 goals. His former clubs are Preston North End and Liverpool, and many people feel he should have gained more than the 16 England caps he possesses.

160 league appearances for the "Trotters", in which he's netted eleven goals, and can also operate in a midfield role.

ROY GREAVES (Midfield). A very skilled and competitive player who has been with Bolton throughout his professional career. Greaves was an ever-present member of last campaign's side when he netted seven league goals, completed ten years service, and was rewarded with a testimonial game this close season. A tireless worker, he is one of the few local players in Bolton's team.

PETER REID (Midfield). A youngster from Liverpool who has really come to the fore over the past two years in which time he's become an automatic member of the "Trotters" side. Reid is not a prolific goalscorer, but is a very clever player who is able to distribute the ball particularly well.

BRIAN SMITH (Midfield). He made his senior debut against York City in October, 1974 and scored his first league goal in his next match (against Nottingham Forest!) at which time he was operating as an orthodox winger. A hard working player, he's established himself in Bolton's side this term.

RAY TRAIN (Midfield). He comes from Nuneaton and began his career with Walsall with whom he netted eleven goals in 67

Our Schoolboys in Top Form



GEOFF LILLEY, who is 16 years of age next September, is at present a pupil at the Bertram Ramsey School, Marton Road, Middlesbrough and signed associated schoolboy forms for us last autumn. A current member of the England Schools Under-15 squad, he came on the field for the last 20 minutes in the recent match versus Scotland played at Wembley. A fine centre-forward, he has the knack of scoring goals.

One Second Division club having three current English Schools internationals on its books is unbelievable. Add to this list Daren Avies, of Wales, and you will appreciate how much we can look forward to the future.

GARY MILLS, like Geoff Lilley, is another piece of "hot property" having been courted by several big clubs. This Northampton boy signed for us in October, 1976 and has impressed everyone with his all-round ability, including the English Schools Football Association, who selected him at right-back for the England versus Scotland game at Wembley, although he normally plays outside-right. Gary had the distinction of scoring one of England's two goals. He attends Champion School, Bugbrooke, Northampton and was born in November, 1961.



COLIN SMITH makes up our trio of current schools internationals although he is playing at the Under-19 level. He is a pupil at Rushcliffe Comprehensive School, West Bridgford where he is studying for his "A" levels. His fine performances have ensured him a place in the national team where he is being asked to play at right-back although we regard him as a central defender. Signed for us on 1st April, 1976.



● Gary in action at Wembley

CLUB CLUB CLUB SCENE SCENE SCENE

A SUITABLE NAME ?

We have been racking our brains to find a suitable name for our "200 Club" which is to be opened at the start of next season. Of course "200 Club" is perfectly acceptable, but it has become a bit "old hat". The same may eventually be said about the one that has been decided on but we think that "Jubilee Club" is very apt in this particular year.

We now have 130 names on the members list and Main Stand season ticket holders are reminded that it is a case of "first come, first served" and the limit of 200 members will be strictly adhered to. Don't leave it only to find that you can just be placed on the waiting list — get your name down now. Applications to the General Office.

The room will be comfortably furnished with television, lounge chairs, licensed bar, etc., and will be available for private functions. The players will also use this room for relaxation after the match.

A SAD LOSS

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the passing of M. Albert Smith, who for many years stewarded the City Ground Press Box. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife and family.

AMUSING "MAGPIE" MISPRINTS

(19th March)

"It is interesting to note how much (or little) was paid out for the current first team players . . . think about it. I bet it doesn't reach £1009000".

● We bet it doesn't either !

"I got this book from the library the other week called 'The Sash He Never Wore' by Derek Sougan".

● Never heard of him !

"Stand seating (for the Sheffield United match) at £1.80, £1.40, and £.20 now on sale".

● That's a bit expensive !

"Our tanks to the 502 who braved the wet weather . . ."

● Smacks of gunboat colonialism.

(April Fools' Day issue)

" . . . our Meadow Lane match against Blackwell Rovers . . ."

● Derbyshire Senior Cup ?

"Notts County versus Nottingham Forest (Easter Saturday, 8th April)".

● Someone has been reading next year's calendar.

OFF TO AMERICA

John O'Hare leaves tomorrow for the U.S.A. where he is going to play for Dallas Tornado S.C. in the North American Soccer League.

TOO OLD !

On Monday, 28th March, the "Daily Mail" included a brief resume — "Sportsmail on the Battle in Division Two" — on what they considered to be the promotion contenders in this section—Wolves, Chelsea, Luton Town, Bolton Wanderers, and ourselves.

In their paragraph devoted to us they wrote "making comeback after the blow of losing to Southampton in the F.A. Cup. Brilliantly motivated, but **their high average age may count against them** when the real pounding starts over Easter. Outsiders".

Strange! The average age of our side that defeated Blackpool only two days previous to this summary was less than 26-years-old.

Whilst talking of the "Daily Mail" they incorporated a lengthy account of Wolves game with Hull City at Molineux in this promotion feature. Hull City's manager, John Kaye, gave his view of the tense situation at the top by saying "Wolves will be promoted all right, but I don't know whether it will be as champions. There doesn't appear to be an outstanding side in the division this season **but, judged on our game with them, Nottingham Forest could be the best**".

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2. VIV ANDERSON	27	1
3. FRANK CLARK	34	—
4. BOB CHAPMAN	23	2
5. LARRY LLOYD	18	3
6. IAN BOWYER	33	10
7. JOHN McGOVERN	31	—
8. MARTIN O'NEILL	30	6
9. PETER WITHE	25	13
10. TONY WOODCOCK	22	9
11. JOHN ROBERTSON	33	5
12. To be announced		

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	League Apps.	Goals
1. JIM McDONAGH	25	—
2. PETER NICHOLSON	25	—
3. TONY DUNNE	28	—
4. ROY GREAVES	31	4
5. PAUL JONES	32	9
6. SAM ALLARDYCE	32	5
7. WILLIE MORGAN	32	1
8. NEIL WHATMORE	30	19
9. STEVE TAYLOR	23	14
10. PETER REID	32	4
11. RAY TRAIN	3	—
12. To be announced		

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ACTION

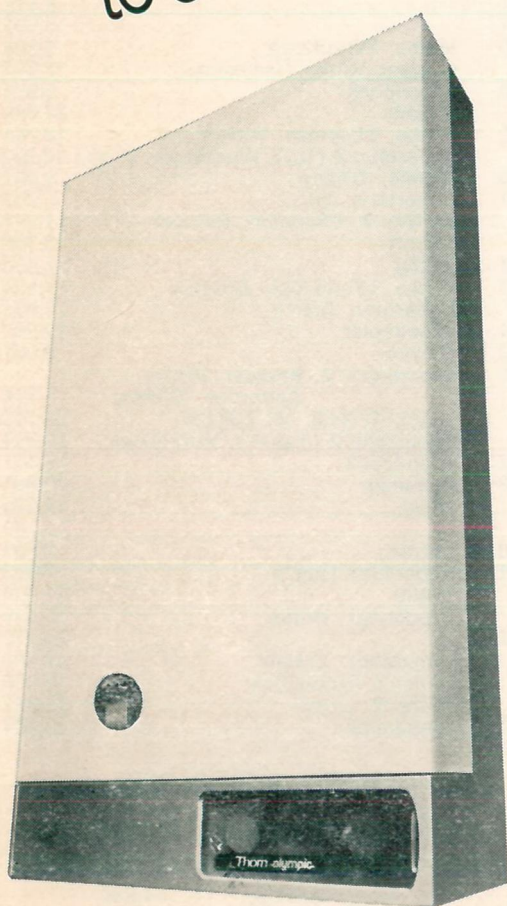
Above: Following Tony Woodcock's headed flick-on, Peter W.the opens the scoring against Blackpool with his then 13th goal this season.

Below: Tony Woodcock slides in our second success against the seashiders after having rounded their 'keeper, George Wood.



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FACTS and FIGURES

Date	Score last season	OPPONENTS	Home score F A	Away score F A	SCORERS	Attendance
Aug. 7	—	Notts County (A.S. Cup)		0—0		11,258
11	—	Albion (A.S. Cup)	3—2		Curran 2 (1 pen.), Butlin	7,018
14	—	Bristol City (A.S. Cup)	4—2		Butlin 2, O'Hare 2	8,527
21	0—0	Fulham		2—2	Curran, O'Hare	9,437
25	1—2	Charlton Athletic	1—1		Curran (pen.)	12,662
28	—	Wolverhampton Wand.	1—3		(Daley 1 o.g.)	17,222
31	—	Walsall (L.C. 2)		4—2	Curran, Barrett, O'Neill 2	8,437
Sept. 4	1—1	Luton Town		1—1	Curran (pen.)	11,231
11	—	Hereford United	4—3		Butlin, Bowyer 2, Robertson	12,081
14	—	Kilmarnock (A.S.C., 1st L.)	2—1		Robertson, Chapman	8,911
18	3—0	Southampton		1—1	Bowyer	23,096
21	—	Coventry City (L.C. 3)	0—3			15,969
25	4—0	Carlisle United	5—1		O'Hare, Bowyer 2, Barrett, Withe	12,479
28	—	Kilmarnock (A.S.C., 2nd L.)		2—2	Curran 2	4,227
Oct. 2	0—1	Hull City		0—1		16,096
9	—	Sheffield United	6—1		Bowyer 2, Butlin, Curran, Withe, Anderson,	17,801
16	1—1	Blackpool		0—1		17,089
20	—	Ayr U. (A.S.C.S.F., 1st Leg)	2—1		Lloyd, Withe	9,146
23	—	Burnley	5—2		Curran, Robertson (pen.), Butlin, O'Neill 2	15,279
26	—	Notts Co. (Co. Cup Final)		0—1		9,415
30	0—0	Oldham Athletic		0—1		10,597
Nov. 3	—	Ayr U. (A.S.C.S.F., 2nd Leg)		2—0	Withe, Woodcock	3,326
6	1—0	Blackburn Rovers	3—0		Bowyer, Withe, Haslegrave	12,972
13	1—1	Orient		1—0	Woodcock	5,921
20	1—3	Chelsea	1—1		O'Neill	27,089
27	—	Cardiff City		3—0	Withe, Chapman, Woodcock	12,741
Dec. 4	3—0	Bristol Rovers	4—2		Robertson 2 (1p.), Woodcock, Withe	16,302
11	—	Millwall		2—0	O'Neill, O'Hare	9,307
13	—	Orient (A.S. Cup Final)		1—1	Robertson (pen.)	5,058
15	—	Orient (A.S. Cup Final)	4—0		Barrett 2, Chapman, Bowyer	12,717
18	2—0	Plymouth Argyle	1—1		Barrett	15,180
27	0—0	Bolton Wanderers		1—1	Withe	32,630
Jan. 1	4—1	Blackburn Rovers		3—1	Withe, Woodcock, Bowyer	14,524
8	—	Bristol Rovers (F.A.C.3)	1—1		Robertson (pen.)	17,874
11	—	Bristol R. (F.A.C.3 1st Replay)		1—1	Woodcock	12,357
14	2—2	Charlton Athletic		1—2	Bowyer	8,021
18	—	Bristol R. (F.A.C.3 2nd Replay) (at Villa Park)		6—0	Woodcock 2, Bowyer, Withe, Anderson, O'Hare	5,736
22	1—0	Fulham	3—0		Lloyd, O'Neill, Woodcock	24,718
29	—	Southampton (F.A.C.4)	3—3		Robertson 2 (1 pen.), Woodcock	38,284
Feb. 1	—	Southampton (F.A.C.4 Replay)		1—2	Woodcock	29,401
5	—	Wolverhampton Wand.		1—2	Chapman	30,661
12	0—0	Luton Town	1—2		Lloyd	18,225
16	3—1	Southampton (abandoned)	0—1			16,189
Mar. 2	—	Hereford United		1—0	Curran	7,503
5	1—1	Carlisle United		1—1	Robertson (pen.)	7,603
8	0—1	Notts County	1—2		Withe	31,004
12	1—2	Hull City	2—0		Woodcock, Withe	15,126
19	—	Sheffield United		0—2		20,370
22	3—1	Southampton	2—1		Woodcock, O'Neill	12,393
26	3—0	Blackpool	3—0		Withe 2, Woodcock	16,658
29	1—0	Orient	3—0		Withe 2, Lloyd	16,267
April 2	—	Burnley		1—0	Woodcock	10,904
6	1—2	Bolton Wanderers	H			
9	0—0	Notts County	A			
16	0—0	Chelsea	A			
23	—	Cardiff City	H			
27	4—3	Oldham Athletic (7.30 p.m.)	H			
30	2—4	Bristol Rovers	A			
May 2	0—1	Plymouth Argyle	A			
7	—	Millwall	H			

LEAGUE ATTENDANCES

Home aggregate	— 293,456
Home average	— 17,262
Away aggregate	— 247,731
Away average	— 14,584

CENTRAL LEAGUE

OPPONENTS

1976	
Aug. 21	EVERTON
Sept. 8	BURNLEY
11	ALBION
15	BURY
18	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
22	ASTON VILLA
29	WOLVES
30	LEEDS UNITED
Oct. 2	STOKE CITY
5	PRESTON NORTH END
23	MANCHESTER CITY
30	LIVERPOOL
Nov. 3	LEEDS UNITED
6	BLACKBURN ROVERS
13	BLACKPOOL
17	DERBY COUNTY
20	NEWCASTLE UNITED
24	BOLTON WANDERERS
30	COVENTRY CITY
Dec. 4	MANCHESTER UNITED
18	LIVERPOOL
1977	
Jan. 12	SHEFFIELD UNITED
Feb. 5	BURNLEY
22	ALBION
Mar. 5	WOLVES
9	STOKE CITY
16	PRESTON NORTH END
18	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN
22	SHEFFIELD UNITED
30	COVENTRY CITY
April 2	MANCHESTER CITY
6	ASTON VILLA
8	BURY
11	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
13	DERBY COUNTY
16	BLACKBURN ROVERS
18	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
20	EVERTON
23	BOLTON WANDERERS
26	BLACKPOOL
30	NEWCASTLE UNITED
May 4	MANCHESTER UNITED

Home
score
F A

Away
score
F A

SCORERS

3—0	Bowery, Woodcock, Bannon
0—1	Bannon 2, Bowery
1—1	Woodcock
0—3	Burke
1—2	Woodcock
1—0	Butlin
0—4	Elliott, Butlin, Burke
1—1	Elliott
3—0	O'Hare, Burke, Woodcock
1—2	Elliott 2, Butlin, Bowery
1—2	Butlin 2, Elliott
1—2	Litt
0—3	Birtles
1—1	Haslegrave
1—0	Elliott, Bannon
2—2	Briscoe
1—3	Butlin
1—0	Bannon, Barrett
2—2	Bowery, Birtles
0—2	Butlin, Smith
0—3	Burke 2, Butlin, Birtles,
2—0	Elliott
5—3	Elliott, Butlin, Birtles
3—0	Butlin
1—0	Elliott 2, Butlin
3—0	

SECOND DIVISION

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1	Chelsea	33	17	11	5	59	43 45
2	Wolves	31	17	9	5	69	36 43
3	FOREST	34	17	8	9	65	36 42
4	Luton Town	34	19	4	11	57	35 42
5	Bolton Wand.	32	17	7	8	61	42 41
6	Notts County	34	17	7	10	55	48 41
7	Blackpool	34	13	13	8	46	37 39
8	Millwall	33	12	10	11	46	42 34
9	Charlton Athletic	33	11	12	10	53	50 34
10	Blackburn Rovers	33	13	8	12	36	42 34
11	Oldham Athletic	32	12	8	12	41	45 32
12	Hull City	32	8	15	9	38	37 31
13	Sheffield United	34	10	11	13	44	48 31
14	Southampton	30	10	10	10	51	48 30
15	Plymouth Argyle	34	7	15	12	40	50 29
16	Orient	31	9	10	12	31	39 28
17	Bristol Rovers	33	9	15	9	35	56 27
18	Fulham	34	8	10	16	43	57 26
19	Cardiff C. ty	32	9	7	16	40	49 25
20	Burnley	33	7	11	15	34	53 25
21	Carlisle United	33	8	7	18	36	66 23
22	Hereford United	31	4	10	17	39	64 18

CENTRAL LEAGUE

Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1	Liverpool	33	25	5	3	102	30 55
2	Man. Utd.	33	18	9	6	61	42 45
3	Bury	32	17	7	8	51	35 41
4	Wolves	30	16	7	7	47	32 39
5	Derby County	32	14	11	7	43	39 39
6	Leeds United	32	17	4	11	73	42 38
7	Manchester City	29	16	4	9	48	39 36
8	Coventry City	33	17	2	14	53	49 36
9	FOREST	31	13	6	12	49	46 32
10	Everton	30	11	10	9	33	32 32
11	Sheffield Wed.	34	10	12	12	36	43 32
12	Albion	31	9	13	9	38	39 31
13	Sheffield United	33	12	7	14	38	43 31
14	Aston Villa	30	12	6	12	41	41 30
15	Stoke City	31	8	12	11	32	43 28
16	Blackburn Rovers	30	12	3	15	39	64 27
17	Burnley	32	9	7	16	42	53 25
18	Blackpool	32	8	8	16	35	52 24
19	Newcastle Utd.	30	7	9	14	38	44 23
20	Huddersfield T.	35	6	8	21	47	74 20
21	Bolton Wand.	31	7	4	20	34	62 18
22	Preston N.E.	34	5	6	23	33	69 16

CONGRATULATIONS !

Congratulations to Mr. Harold Alcock who has been elected Vice-Chairman of the F.A. Cup Challenge Committee. If we can't get some home ties now, we never will !

Tonight's records have been kindly supplied by Chas. J. Fox Records, Victoria Centre.

MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE CUP

(league basis)

1977		F A	April 2	MANSFIELD TOWN	A 3—1
Feb. 12	NOTTS COUNTY	A 2—0	9	NOTTS COUNTY	H
Mar. 5	PORT VALE	H 1—0	16	DERBY COUNTY	H
12	STOKE CITY	H 1—1	23	PORT VALE	A
19	DERBY COUNTY	A 2—0	30	STOKE CITY	A
26	MANSFIELD TOWN	H 1—0			

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City Ground Postbag

Dear Mr. Grimshaw,

As you know, last night I refereed the Central League match—Sheffield United versus Nottingham Forest. I felt I had to write and comment on the exceedingly sporting manner in which the game was played.

In my number of years on the League, I have officiated in many excellent sporting games. However, I felt that due to the excellent attitude of both sides' players towards the game and the officials, it produced a first-class match to control.

The game was a credit to Central League football.

Yours faithfully,

H. D. G. (Huddersfield).

Note: Mr. Grimshaw is the Central League secretary.

Dear Mr. Clough,

We would like to express our disapproval, we refer to the column of sheer rubbish written by M.H. (who is not manly enough to reveal his name). The article was entitled "Welcome to the Tigers", if that is a welcome I would not like to be welcome to the City Ground.

To be specific I am complaining about the insults consisting of "unambitious club" and the matter of Billy Bremner's goal being "flukey".

Reading the article I noticed that only the bad things were mentioned. When your shambles came to Boothferry Park, we gave you a proper welcome and not a barrage of insults. I have heard that Nottingham Forest's pitch is a very good pitch, it should be as enough manure plays on it.

Yours depressed,
Dean Lewis, Ian Ruddenford.

P.S.—Have a happy Easter!

No comment — only to say that, after the "Tigers" recent display here, our City Ground turf should have been further enriched.—Editor.

My boy friend tells me that whenever Forest scored a goal the illuminated rattle of "Ivor Thirst" on the scoreboard used to go round.

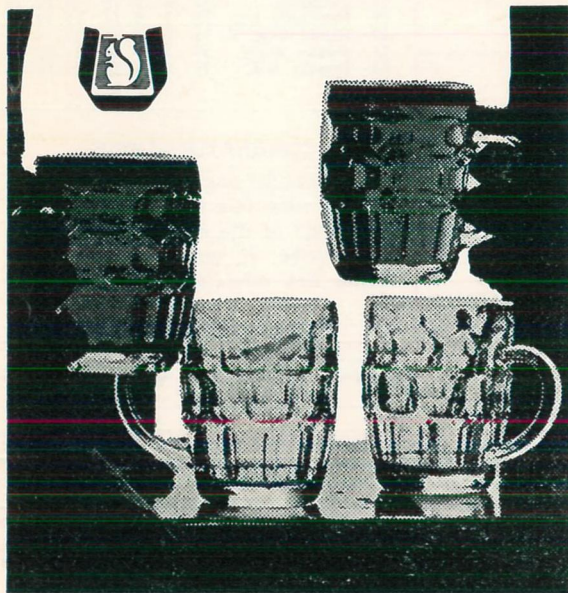
After looking carefully on three occasions, when we scored against Blackpool, it didn't do so.

I was wondering if it is broken and, if so, will it soon be repaired? I hope so!

Wishing him and Forest many more rattles.

Linda Crockett (Lenton Sands).

● The sign is owned and maintained by Shipstone's Brewery. The hooter should hoot and "Ivor Thirst" is supposed to wave his rattle.—Editor.



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I endorse recent "Review" letters concerning the removal of Trent-Enders for big matches. In First Division days all visitors were directed to the East Stand terracing or seats. Their coaches would be parked at the far end of the East Stand car park. Hence the hooligan elements never met.

Surely it would be better to revert to that situation, instead of persisting with the present chaotic set-up, which only brings the mob element closer together.

And what is the point in keeping a section of East terracing vacant when visitors are occupying East Stand seats and removed Trent-Enders are right in front of them, using the same entrance and other facilities?

One other point, when is the Trent End section nearest the Main Stand going to have an improved loud-speaker system? The present hired one is totally distorted and we never hear what announcements are made.

Rev. P. Wilson (New Ollerton).

Plessey Communications Systems Ltd. have promised to look into the difficulties we are experiencing with distortion.—Editor.

Dear Mr. Dryden,

It was very nice of you to acknowledge our small gift. We've seen practically every match this season, home and away, and feel certain that if we don't get promotion this year then we will next with the management set-up we now have.

We have a son who is ten years old and, at that age at school, he is unable to get a proper game so a friend has helped us in forming a side of ten-year-olds in the village. So far we have had a response from 26 boys in the last two weeks and we have had a couple of practice games.

They are all very keen and we have called the team "Ravenshead Reds Football Club" after Forest.

We have got the Parish Council to mark us out a junior pitch on the village playing fields, which they have done very quickly, and we hope to have regular training, coaching, and practice matches.

We know that all football league clubs have nursery clubs attached to them and we wondered if our club could be considered for this type of connection. If only one boy

came through to make the grade it would be well worthwhile, and with the interest shown I am certain it would be a successful venture. Our coach would be very interested if Jimmy Gordon could let us have some training ideas that would be interesting for the boys, and help develop their ability and physique.

We also wondered if you could put a short note in your programme for the next home match asking if there are any other teams of similar ages who would like a friendly game on a Sunday (Saturdays are out, of course), would they please contact us.

Beryl Salter, Secretary, Ravenshead Reds Junior F.C., 10 Southview Gardens, Ravenshead, Notts. (tel. Blidworth 3944).



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